

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0404
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG: HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT - GETTING ALLIED
AGREEMENT

REF: (A) USNATO 3270 (DTG 301641Z MAR 78)

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SUMMARY: BASED ON OUR REVIEW OF ALLIED COMMENTS, WE
BELIEVE WE HAVE THE BASIS FOR GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE
HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT. WE PROVIDE IN THIS MESSAGE

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PROCEDURAL SUGGESTION FOR A FINAL PUSH TOWARD THIS
OBJECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

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1. OUR REVIEW OF ALLIED COMMENTS ON THE NPG HIGH LEVEL
GROUP REPORT (REFTEL) SUGGESTS TO US THAT WE ARE CLOSE TO
GENERAL AGREEMENT. HAVING COME THIS FAR IN WHAT HAS
BEEN A VERY EFFECTIVE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, WE BELIEVE

IT WOULD BE REGRETABLE FOR THE FINAL PRODUCT TO GO FORWARD IN A FORM THAT WOULD ACCENTUATE DIFFERENCES - DIFFERENCES WHICH IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS HAVE TO DO ONLY WITH DEGREES OF EMPHASIS. MOREOVER, WE ARE MINDFUL THAT AN OUTCOME WHICH ACCENTUATES DIFFERENCES COULD CARRY OVER INTO THE DPC AND SUMMIT, FOSTERING CONTENTIOUS DEBATE WHICH COULD OVERSHADOW THE PRIORITY ATTENTION WE WISH TO GIVE TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LTDP AND WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES IN THE EVER-PRESENT RISKS OF LEAKS TO THE PRESS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT FOR WASHINGTON THE KEY ISSUE IS LONGER-RANGE SYSTEMS. THERE IS, AS WE ALL RECOGNIZE, AN ESSENTIAL NEED TO PRESERVE US FLEXIBILITY. HOWEVER, OUR READING OF THE UK AND FRG COMMENTS DO NOT IMPLY TO US THAT, BY ACCEPTING THEIR WORDING, WE WOULD LOSE THE NECESSARY DEGREE OF CONTROL. THE FUNDAMENTAL POINT IS THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE PRESENT VARIATIONS IN WORDING OF PARAGRAPH 50, THE LONGER-RANGE SYSTEMS ISSUE WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER STUDY. THE US WILL BE IN THE DRIVERS SEAT ON THE PACE AND DIRECTION OF SUCH STUDY. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THE UK AND FRG IN PARTICULAR, BUT FOR OTHER ALLIES AS WELL, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP EXERCISE HAS LESS TO DO WITH "MODERNIZATION" IN THE NARROW SENSE THAN WITH BROADER PERCEPTIONS OF US
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COMMITMENT, CARRYING OVER INTO AREAS SUCH AS SALT, GRAY AREA ISSUES, AND THE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF CRUISE MISSILES. WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT OUR APPROACH IN THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP WILL INFLUENCE ALLIED CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR VITAL INTERESTS WILL BE PROTECTED AS WE MOVE FORWARD ON THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND INTERRELATED FORCE PLANNING AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES FACING THE US AND NATO.

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3. GENERAL AGREEMENT IN THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP IS WITHIN REACH AND IN OUR VIEW WE SHOULD MAKE A FINAL PUSH TO ACHIEVE IT. IF WASHINGTON IS PREPARED TO ACCOMMODATE KEY ALLIED COMMENTS, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

. A. CIRCULATE IN ALLIED CAPITALS AND NATO HQS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MONDAY, APRIL 3, A CORRIGENDUM TO THE TEXT OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT ISSUED ON MARCH 29, INCORPORATING TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE THE ALLIED COMMENTS WE HAVE RECEIVED. (TO SUCCEED, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PICK UP UK AND FRG COMMENTS ON PARAGRAPH 50, OR SOME VARIATION VERY CLOSE TO THEM.)

. B. INCLUDE IN OUR COVER NOTE THE POINT THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR BEST EFFORT TO REFLECT AND RECONCILE ALLIED COMMENTS AND THAT WE STRONGLY DESIRE TO ACHIEVE A DOCUMENT THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS COULD ACCEPT.

. C. REQUEST THEIR FINAL CLEARANCE, TO BE TRANSMITTED TO USNATO, BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS TUESDAY, APRIL 4. (WE WILL PREPARE THE AMENDED REPORT IN FINAL, AND BE READY TO FORWARD IT ON APRIL 5 FOR FORMAL CIRCULATION. THE NPG PERMREPS MEETING, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR

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APRIL 5, HAS BEEN MOVED TO APRIL 6, SO WE HAVE A DAY'S GRACE.)

. D. INCLUDE, IN THE CORRIGENDUM CIRCULATED ON APRIL 3 THE TEXT OF THE CHAIRMAN'S TRANSMITTAL WE INTEND TO INCLUDE WITH THE FINAL REPORT. THIS WILL

ENABLE THE ALLIES TO SEE PRECISELY THE TERMS BY WHICH
THE CHAIRMAN WOULD TRANSMIT THE FINAL REPORT. WE
RECOMMEND THAT THE LETTER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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. - THE REPORT REPRESENTS THE RESULTS OF THE
DISCUSSIONS BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP.

. - THE REPORT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS REFLECTING
THE PRECISE WORDING THROUGHOUT THAT EACH HIGH LEVEL
GROUP DELEGATION MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN.

. - THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP BELIEVES THE REPORT
PROVIDES A SOUND BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, BUT THAT IT SHOULD
NOT BE SEEN AS NECESSARILY REFLECTING THE OFFICIAL
VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS OR OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES,
IN LINE WITH CUSTOMARY HANDLING OF NPG STUDY EFFORTS.

4. AS FOR SOME DESIDERATA, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE TO ACCEPT THE FRG PROPOSAL TO DELETE RELEVANT
DATA TO PERMIT THE REPORT TO BE CLASSIFIED NATO SECRET.
WE RECOMMEND REVISING SLIGHTLY PARAGRAPHS 63 AND 64
(PER FRG AND DANISH COMMENTS) REGARDING THE FUTURE ROLE
OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP. IT ONLY RAISES ALLIED
HACKLES HERE AND IN CAPITALS TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION
THAT PERMREPS MIGHT BE CUT OUT OF THE PATTERN - AN
IMPRESSION THAT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR BROADER
CONSULTATIVE OBJECTIVES IN THE NPG. AS FOR MILITARY
COMMENTS, WE BELIEVE THE IMS IN PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS
GO BEYOND WHAT CAN BE INCORPORATED AT THIS STAGE IN THE
DRAFTING PROCESS. WHILE SOME OF THEIR COMMENTS PROVIDE
USEFUL CLARIFICATIONS AND COULD BE INCORPORATED WITHOUT
DIFFICULTY, WE PROPOSE TO URGE THEM HERE TO SUPPORT
FORWARDING OF THE REVISED REPORT (EVEN THOUGH ALL OF
THEIR COMMENTS WOULD NOT BE INCORPORATED IN THE
DOCUMENT) AS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

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